

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A prosthetic hip for supporting on a patient a prosthetic leg having an upper leg end, comprising:

a socket having an outer surface;

a mount on said outer surface, said mount defining a hip joint axis, said mount pivotally supporting the upper leg end such that the prosthetic leg is pivotable about said hip joint axis during walking, said mount being positioned on said surface such that said hip joint axis passes through the center of rotation of the patient's natural hip joint; and

a first member adjustably affixed to said outer surface, said first member including a stop member, said stop member extending so as to prevent the prosthetic leg from pivoting too far.

2. (Original) The prosthetic hip according to claim 1, further including a load arm extending medially from the upper leg end so as to engage the outer surface of the socket.

3. (Original) The prosthetic hip according to claim 2 wherein said load arm is configured so as to transmit a load from the socket directly to the prosthetic leg.

4. (Allowed) A prosthetic hip , comprising:

a socket having an outer surface;

a mount on said outer surface, said mount defining a joint axis, said mount being positioned on said surface such that said joint axis substantially coincides with the natural axis of rotation of the patient's natural leg when rotated in a sagittal plane; and

a first member adjustably affixed to said outer surface, said first member including a stop member;

a prosthetic leg having an upper leg end wherein the upper leg end is pivotably mounted on said mount and includes a load arm extending medially from the upper leg end so as to engage the outer surface of the socket such that the prosthetic leg is pivotable about said joint axis and pivoting of the leg in at least one direction is limited by said stop member;

wherein said load arm is configured so as to transmit a load from the socket directly to the prosthetic leg and includes a roller at its distal end and wherein said roller engages the outer surface of said socket.

5. (Original) The prosthetic hip according to claim 4 wherein the outer surface of said socket includes a roller track configured to engage said roller.

6. (Original) The prosthetic hip according to claim 1 wherein said stop member includes means for engaging said socket so as to prevent relative rotation between said socket and said stop member.

7. (Original) The prosthetic hip according to claim 1 wherein said first member is mounted on said mount between said socket and said upper leg end.

8. (Original) The prosthetic hip according to claim 1 wherein said first member is azimuthally positionable relative to said joint axis, further including means for preventing rotation of said first member relative to said socket.

9. (Original) The prosthetic hip according to claim 8 wherein said rotation preventing means comprises at least a first engaging means on said first member and at least a second engaging means, said second engaging means being fixed relative to said joint axis, said first and second engaging means being engageable to prevent rotation of said first member relative to said socket.

10. (Original) The prosthetic hip according to claim 9 wherein said second engaging means comprises at least one protrusion on said socket.

11. (Currently amended) A prosthetic hip for supporting on a patient a prosthetic leg having an upper end, comprising:

a socket having an outer surface;

a mount on said outer surface, said mount defining a joint axis, said mount

pivotally supporting the upper leg end such that the prosthetic leg is pivotable about said hip joint axis during walking, said mount being positioned on said surface such that said joint axis passes through center of rotation of the patient's natural hip joint; and

means for limiting pivoting of the leg about said joint axis in at least one direction.

12. (Original) The prosthetic hip according to claim 11, further including a load arm extending medially from the upper leg end so as to engage the outer surface of the socket.

13. (Original) The prosthetic hip according to claim 12 wherein said load arm is configured so as to transmit a load from the socket directly to the prosthetic leg.

14. (Allowed) A prosthetic hip system, comprising:

a socket having an outer surface;

a mount on said outer surface, said mount defining a joint axis, said mount being positioned on said surface such that said joint axis passes through the patient's natural hip joint;

a prosthetic leg having an upper leg end, said upper leg end being pivotably mounted on said mount such that the prosthetic leg is pivotable about said joint axis during walking, said upper leg end including a load arm extending medially therefrom end so as to engage the outer surface of the socket, wherein said load arm is configured so as to transmit a load from the socket directly to the prosthetic leg and wherein said load arm includes a roller at its distal end and said roller engages the outer surface of said socket; and

means for limiting pivoting of the leg about said joint axis in at least one direction.

15. (Original) The prosthetic hip according to claim 14 wherein the outer surface of said socket includes a roller track configured to engage said roller.

16. (Original) The prosthetic hip according to claim 11 wherein said stop member includes means for engaging said socket so as to prevent relative rotation between said socket and said

stop member.

17. (Original) The prosthetic hip according to claim 11 wherein said first member is mounted on said mount between said socket and said upper leg end.

18. (Original) The prosthetic hip according to claim 11 wherein said first member is azimuthally positionable relative to said joint axis, further including means for preventing rotation of said first member relative to said socket.

19. (Original) The prosthetic hip according to claim 18 wherein said rotation preventing means comprises at least a first engaging means on said first member and at least a second engaging means, said second engaging means being fixed relative to said joint axis, said first and second engaging means being engageable to prevent rotation of said first member relative to said socket.

20. (Original) The prosthetic hip according to claim 19 wherein said second engaging means comprises at least one protrusion on said socket.